

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 /108 W

----- 092447

R 270239Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0345

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ERTD, TH

SUBJ: ASAIN TARIFF ACCORD, "THE BANGKOK AGREEMENT"

REF: SEOUL 6411; NEW DELHI 11245; MANILA 11274; STATE 19151;

BANGKOK A-277, OCT 7, 1974 (NOTAL); BANGKOK 16969

1. FOLLOWING IS THE SUMMARY OF A-216 (WITH ATTACHED
"BANGKOK AGREEMENT") WHICH WILL BE AIRPOUCHED ON AUGUST 29, 1975
TO ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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2. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE "BANGKOK AGREEMENT" (COPY ENCLOSED)
SIGNED BY SIX ESCAP NATIONS ON JULY 31, 1975, (BANGLADESH SIGNED
ON AUGUST 15) IS A PRELIMINARY STEP TOWARD NEGOTIATING TARIFF
AND NON-TARIFF BARRIER REDUCTIONS AMONG DEVELOPING NATIONS IN
THE ASIAN AREA. THE THREE YEAR AGREEMENT COVERS 158
CATEGORIES OF COMMODITIES AND SETS TARIFF REDUCTIONS AVERAGING
30 PERCENT. WHILE IT WOULD AFFECT ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF THE
TOTAL TRADE AMONG THE EIGHT SIGNATORIES, THE "BANGKOK AGREE-
MENT" IS AN EXPERIMENT TO SEE WHETHER THE CONCESSIONS SHOULD
BE EXPANDED IN LATER
ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS. THE RTG HOPES
TO BE THE SECOND OR THIRD GOVERNMENT TO RATIFY THIS FIRST PRO-
TOCOL BY EXECUTIVE ACTION BEFORE JANUARY 31, 1976, BY WHICH
TIME THREE OF THE SIGNATORY NATIONS MUST RATIFY IF THE AGREE-
MENT IS TO BECOME EFFECTIVE. WHILE THE DATE AND AGENDA FOR
THE SECOND ROUND IN BANGKOK HAVE NOT YET BEEN SET, THE RTG
HOPES IT WILL COMMENCE SHORTLY AFTER JANUARY 31, 1976, AND SPEC-
ULATES THAT IT WILL CONSIDER THE THORNIER PROBLEM OF NON-TARIFF
BARRIERS. ALTHOUGH SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, AND INDONESIA DID NOT
PARTICIPATE IN THIS AGREEMENT BECAUSE THESE COUNTRIES PREFERRED
FIRST TO DEAL WITHIN THE ASEAN CONTEXT, THE "BANGKOK
AGREEMENT" PROVIDES AN ESCAPE CLAUSE FOR THAILAND AND THE
PHILIPPINES TO NEGOTIATE A SEPARATE AGREEMENT WITHIN ASEAN.
END SUMMARY.
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